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AMONG THE PAPERS.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

The time when universal peace will prevail may be afar off, but this fact should only stimulate the efforts of those who hope to accomplish this long step toward the millennium. When the World's Columbian Exposition adopted a memorial having this laudable end in view, it gave practical direction to a movement which may result in the accomplishment of the desired purpose. This memorial has been brought directly to the attention of the President and Secretary Gresham, both of whom are in hearty accord with its provisions, and with the prestige of their indorsement, it will go to all foreign governments. The next move will be to secure an international conference on the subject, and those who have no faith that wars will cease may take hope that the claims of peace based on justice and a mutual recognition of what is right, will receive more general recognition.

Co-operation of many foreign powers has already been secured through those representing them at the World's fair, and, while there is nothing binding in the indorsement which they have given the movement, their action is indicative of a sentiment which many, if not all, of their nations may be induced to ratify. The great burden of the taxation borne by the people of European governments is due to the heavy expense of maintaining standing armies. The enormous outlay in this direction, if devoted wisely to the promotion of the general welfare, would conduce to the prosperity and happiness of the entire people. It would bring as the accompaniment of assured peace, contentment and comfort.

Some political economists uphold the maintenance of great standing armies as a means of training the men of a country into a sense of their responsibility as citizens, and disciplining them into an appreciation of their highest duties as subjects. But these claims strike us as an example of subversiveness to the existing powers rather than an honest expression from those who seek to promote the best good of the masses. There is a much stronger argument for those who hold that war is a crime. Certainly nations have no right to appeal to arms, save in a just cause. One of the contestants must necessarily be wrong, and upon that one rests the responsibility of wholesale murder. The right does not always triumph, and the weak are made the victims of the strong. The scheme of international arbitration would not only do away with the horrors of war, but it would insure justice and allow the people of the world to devote their time, talents and energies to the securing of those things which mean happiness, contentment and rational enjoyment.—*Detroit Free Press.*

LET US HAVE PEACE.

The substitution of international arbitration for war as a means of settling disputes among nations has been much discussed, and attempts have been made in a half-hearted way to carry out the plans proposed. The plan has been generally considered as visionary, and that has helped to make it so.

But why should it be only an idle dream? Force is antagonistic to civilization. War in the nineteenth century is an anachronism. Mental enlightenment has supplanted

force with reason in the settlement of individual disputes. Why is not the same thing possible in the adjustment of national affairs?

True, the force of the government, guided by reason, takes the place of the force of the individual in settling disputes between citizens. True, there is no higher power than the government. Each country is supreme so far as its conduct is concerned. All this is true, but need not be. If the civilized nations of the earth would agree to put a stop to wars and band together to enforce that decision they would have power enough to prevent international violence as fully as a nation has power to prevent violence between citizens. The system of international arbitration, like everything else in the world would have to depend ultimately on force, but if the powers would agree to it they would present a force so strong that it would never have to be used. Resistance would be hopeless. Acquiescence would be immediate.

The movement has been revived by the presentation to our government of a memorial signed by representatives of forty nations which participated in the Columbian exposition. Nothing more important to civilization, nothing more popular, nothing easier to carry out was ever proposed if those who favor the plan will work to secure its adoption by the governments to which they owe allegiance. It would save tens of thousands of lives and billions of money every year. It would restore 6,000,000 men in Europe alone to profitable industry, who now have to be supported in idleness, and it would stop the further increase of national debts, which now amount to nearly \$30,000,000,000, a sum too large for the mind to grasp or for the world to pay.—*Times-Union, Jacksonville, Florida.*

THE BOMB THROWING IN PARIS: A REFLECTION AND A LESSON.

The whole of Europe has thrilled with horror at the bomb-throwing outrage in the Chamber of Deputies in Paris, following so soon after that in the theatre at Barcelona. There is food, however, for reflection in the thought that thousands of newspaper readers who have been expressing their horror at these outrages, would have read with undisturbed calm and even enjoyment descriptive accounts of a battle, the results of which would have infinitely exceeded in horror these recent savage deeds. Is there not something wrong here? Is it not strange that so many who are horrified with this crime against Society when it takes the form of war against existing social conditions, never stir a finger to help to put an end to the barbarous system of war between nations, nay, too often sneer at and disparage the efforts of those who are devoting their lives to this blessed work? One would fain hope that out of these hideous crimes, against which Society is bound to protect itself, and the perpetrators of which must be treated as *hostes humani generis*, good may come in the form of a conviction that a remedy must be found for anarchy in international relations as well as in the national affairs of any civilized community. Let the friends of peace then appeal to all who feel that the results of civilization are worth preserving, and must be protected against lawless attacks, to do something to help in the crusade against that savage old custom of war between nations which is a standing menace to that civilization from which

it cries aloud to be delivered; and which, with its tax of blood and money, has had much to do with producing that misery and degradation which form such fruitful soil for the growth of anarchy and sedition.—*Concord.*

“Nor should we forget that the present British House of Commons at the beginning of this year passed a resolution, congratulating Congress on its action in this matter, and requesting the British government to co-operate heartily with the government of the United States in promoting arbitration methods.

“It will thus be seen that the two great Anglo-Saxon nations on opposite sides of the Atlantic, as well as a few of the smaller nations of Europe, like Belgium, Holland and Switzerland, are quite ripe for the establishment of an international arbitration court that would settle all disputes arising between governments; but while the five big continental nations will have no adjustment of their quarrels but by the arbitrament of arms, the establishment of such a court is of course out of the question.”—*Times Democrat, New Orleans.*

It is a deeply significant and highly encouraging fact that no tribunal for the settlement of an international difficulty has been organized which did not accomplish its object. In other words no nation has disgraced itself by refusing to abide by the settlement effected, however disappointing. It is no less significant that whatever else might be thought of it no such tribunal has ever had its integrity or the fairness of its intentions called in question, even in the moment of bitterest hostility, as to the verdict rendered. The instances of trial have been sufficiently numerous to warrant the conclusion that it is entirely practicable to settle disputes in that way, and have them really settled. In private affairs arbitration does not always arbitrate. Sometimes charges of improper influences are made and vitiate the decision, but no trouble of that kind has ever occurred on an international scale.

—*Herald of Truth.*

About the middle of last month a banquet was given in Genoa to celebrate the anniversary of Garibaldi's military expedition to Sicily—once famous but now almost forgotten. One of the distinguished guests was M. Crispi, ex-premier of Italy, who, amid eulogies of the former war-like exploits of his noted countrymen, boldly took occasion to declare himself a firm believer in peace, and went so far as to exclaim, “The men who clamor for war are dangerous fools.”

He expressed a statesman's and a patriot's desire when he declared his wish to see a federation of all nations, such as shall secure the peace of the world for a future of larger social and material development everywhere.

Later in October there were festivities in France, on a large scale, due to the invited presence of the Russian navy. For awhile it was feared that these fetes were meant to conceal a war-breeding understanding between the great republic and the great autocracy. On the contrary, they betokened relations of peace, a fact which was brought to the surface by the occurrence of the obsequies of Marshal McMahon, which occurred at the time. About his catafalque were collected representative Russians, representative Englishmen, even representative Germans, as well as Frenchmen without number. And notably

Emperor William sent a wreath of flowers from Berlin to Paris for a decoration of that warrior's bier, whose defeat by the Germans, in the war that ended the career of Napoleon III., was one of the chief among the humiliations of the French people. This unexpected token of goodwill, hailed with equally unexpected satisfaction by all France (as it was by the other nationalities present), has led to a far less rancorous feeling on the part of the conquered country as towards its conquerors, and will doubtless tend to postpone, if not to stave off altogether, a threatened war between France and Germany and to promote which it wrongfully believed that Russia was pledging herself in behalf of the former. In a word, these fetes and manifestations of concord seem to assure Europe a prolonged and blessed peace.

In connection with these incidents the softening influences of the World's Fair ought to be taken into account, where all nationalities have mingled, have exchanged courtesies, have witnessed together the manifest fruits of peace, and listened in mutual sympathy to many orators, who in many voices preached the doctrine of that human brotherhood which all must have felt had there been no words to tell about it. They who were from abroad were impressed, as his own countrymen have been, with the utterances of Mr. Depew, when, on “Manhattan Day,” he pointed to the fact that while the governments of Europe are imposing upon peoples already overburdened the increasing weight of preparations for wars which ought to be impossible, the emulous, yet friendly meetings of all races within the grounds of the great exposition demonstrate the possibilities, and illustrate the hopes of the world, in the direction of civilization and peace.

On the whole view, we therefore are prepared to prophesy a long reign of the spirit of peace throughout Christendom. Assuredly a great woe will be to that government or people who shall throw open again the long closed temple of Janus and let out the barking and devouring dogs of barbarous war.—*The Church Union.*

PEACE SOCIETIES IN AMERICA.

The American Peace Society, 3 Somerset St., Boston, Mass., Benjamin F. Trueblood, Secretary.

The Universal Peace Union, 123 Fourth St., Philadelphia, Pa., Alfred H. Love, President.

The Christian Arbitration and Peace Society, 310 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa., Rev. Henry S. Clubb, Secretary.

National Association for the Promotion of Arbitration, Washington, D. C., Belva A. Lockwood, President.

Peace Department of the N. W. C. T. U., Winthrop Centre, Maine, Hannah J. Bailey, Superintendent.

The Peace Association of Friends in America, Richmond, Ind., Daniel Hill, Secretary.

The South Carolina Peace Society, Columbia, S. C., Rev. Sidi H. Browne, President.

The Illinois Peace Society, 200 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill., Allen J. Flitcraft, Secretary.

The Pacific Coast Arbitration Society, Monterey, Cal., E. Berwick, Secretary.

The Connecticut Peace Society, Old Mystic, Conn., Fred E. Whipple, Secretary.

The Rhode Island Peace Society, Providence, R. I., Robert P. Gifford, Secretary.

Friends' Peace Association of Philadelphia, 140 North 16th St., Philadelphia, Pa., William F. Wickersham, Corresponding Secretary.